

Gains Made in Pollution Control, Says Manager of Volunteer Plant

T 4-19-67

Substantial progress has been made in controlling air pollution at the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, Norl Hamilton, plant manager, told representatives of city, county, state and federal pollution regulatory agencies Tuesday, but added that "we have a long way to go."

Hamilton, an official of Atlas Chemical Industries Inc. which is operating VAAP for the Army, spoke at a briefing at the plant attended by Atlanta and Cincinnati representatives of the U.S. Public Health Service; and representatives of the Tennessee Department of Public Health, TVA, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department, Army Materiel Command, Washington; Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, Edgewood Arsenal, Md.; Army Munitions Command, Dover, N.J.; Army Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency, Joliet, Ill. and Farmers Chemical Association, Tyner.

Hamilton told the group that Atlas is intensifying long-standing educational program to impress plant employees with the importance of pollution abatement.

"Safety has been and will continue to be our 'Number One' emphasis," Hamilton said, adding "pollution abatement is a close second with production running third."

He discussed highlights of several air pollution control projects. Improved instrumentation expected to be available for installation in the near future will substantially reduce TNT line

pollution, he said. A similar project for plant support facilities will reduce maintenance problems with a resulting decrease in air pollution.

Hamilton labelled as "one of the worst offenders" a "sellite" stack at an acid facility. He reported that measures already put into effect have reduced the emission of sulfur dioxide at the stack from 2600 parts per million to 250 parts per million. In addition, he said, plans have been completed for the installation of a filtering device which will further control the offender.

Preceding Hamilton was Capt. Frederick B. Higgins of the Army Environmental Hygiene Agency. The captain reported on the results of extensive air and water pollution tests at Volunteer. He pointed out that some trouble sources previously unsuspected had come to light through the tests.

Hamilton said that the test information had enabled Volunteer to plan further needed control measures for the trouble areas recently brought to light.

Lt. Col. Herbert H. Riedemann, plant commander, presided at the briefing.

The regulatory agencies were taken on a tour of the ammunition plant which included a visit to one of the 24-hour automated air sampling stations.

\$4 MILLION PACT LET TO TNT PLANT

T 5-16-67

New Total Investment in Explosive Production Is \$56 Million

By CHARLES PENNINGTON

The Army has awarded a \$4,173,675 contract to Atlas Chemical Industries Inc. for additional production of TNT at Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant here, Sen. Albert Gore announced Monday.

Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, reactivated in 1965, started operations with an initial contract of approximately \$4 million. The most recently awarded order — or contract extension — brings the total investment in production here of the powerful explosive used in weapons for the war in Vietnam to more than \$56 million.

In a telegram to The Chattanooga Times Monday Sen. Gore stated:

"Pleased to advise recent announcement by U.S. Army Ammunition Procurement and Supply of award of modification No. 3 to contract for \$4,173,675 to Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., Wilmington, Del., for 34,732,486 pounds of TNT. Work to be done at Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, Chattanooga, Tenn."

Capt. Curtis P. Truett, captain of ordnance management at VAAP, confirmed the senator's announcement but declined to make any estimate of the amount of TNT represented by the total production investment of some \$56 million to date.

"We don't mind talking in terms of money but we prefer not to discuss production figures," he said.

Capt. Truett said the new order should "support production through Sept. 1."

Since the TNT produced here is used in the manufacture of ammunition for weapons used in Vietnam it is believed that further contract extensions will be made and that production will continue here for sometime.

The sprawling plant near Tyner was built for production of TNT during World War II and at that time was known as the Volunteer Ordnance Works. Shortly after it was reactivated the name was changed to Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant.